

Philad^a Jan. 25th, 1835.

My Dear Friend:

Thine, of the 21st inst. has just this moment come to hand, with the letter and package for the Mexican Charge d'Affaires. I left him but an hour ago; and I now hasten to drop thee a line in the post-office, and will then deliver the letter and package to him immediately.

By the last arrivals from Matamoras and New Orleans, it appears that the Don Luis of Texas have not yet quite finished their work. There are long papers among the newsmongers, and newspaper-manufacturers, which give them rather a ridiculous appearance! — But how valourous they have been at San Antonio de Bexar!! — Who will believe their accounts of events there? Three hundred men only engaged, of whom but three were lost!!! — There could have been the remainder of the besieging army, which they told us was 1300? — And then a reinforcement, for Gas, arrived, just in time to be taken by the 300 victors! — Was not this incident nicely dovetailed into the story?

Thine will perceive, from the account given in the "Mercurio," of Matamoras, that Governor Hernandez is appointed to the command of the army of Tamaulipas, with his Head-Quarters at Matamoras. I shall be glad to meet him there. It seems that

some men of the "innocent" patriotic "pirates," who were proceeding to Texas for the purpose of "fighting for liberty" — to hold slaves, have been taken into the custody of colored soldiers, and put in irons at Matamoros. How "ignorant and uncivil these colored ~~Mexicans~~ are!

Castillo has received accounts from New Orleans, which state ^{that} eleven of the gang, on Thompson's trial, pronounce him not guilty, but one stands out. What effect will the note, from the Mexican Secretary of State to our government, have upon this question, and others? I have it from good "private" authority, that Santa Anna is resolved to make an impression example of the Texas intruders and rebels; and the authorities at Tampico have given them a fair warning of what they may expect from a people who have been greeted with bullets, instead of gratitude, for liberal favours heaped upon strangers.

I do most sincerely rejoice, that Mrs. Child evinces so much resoluteness in her determination. It will tell well in the history of her future life, when the results of her public spirited efforts shall be published to the world. I was desirous to know whether she would go at the same time, with us, in order that I might make special arrangements with the shipper, for her comfort, in the vessel. It will also be extremely interesting to our friends here, and elsewhere, to know of it. Since the receipt of thy last letter, ^(before this just received) in which thou stated that it was thy determination to go to Tamaulipas, thinking, from the unreservedness of thy expression, that ^{thou} would no longer wish it kept a secret, I hinted it to a few of our confidential friends. They were delighted with the idea. They immediately enquired whether

Mr. Child want to accompany us? - but this ^{fact} I did not communicate to them. It will be extremely gratifying to them to know it; and I shall hope to be allowed to satisfy their inquiries, when I hear from you again. That, however will rest with yourselves.

With respect to their joining me as a partner - or rather making an arrangement to furnish half the colonists, and share half the land, &c. that will be out of the question. I have a partner in the concern, already, who has liberally aided me with funds, at various periods, and is to share with me the ^{landed} proceeds of the present enterprise. - But I am perfectly willing to give them good terms; and when I can see them, I will inform them, more particularly than I have yet done, how they may acquire ample means to realize something handsome, in a comparatively short period. A wide door is open, then, for a man of enterprise; and my project will present him with a large field for its exercise. There is aware that I am, myself, in a situation that will make it necessary to save something for a "rainy day," before long; and in regard to this enterprise, I have expended much time and money, in getting the arrangements made, &c. - But although I have little doubt of being able to procure the requisite number of settlers, upon the terms mentioned in my Circular pamphlet, - yet, as I am very desirous that you shall accompany me, and at least make a beginning in my colony, even if you should prefer colonizing somewhere else, with some of your friends, afterwards, (which you might do, if the government

will permit, and still retain your interest in my settlement,) I will propose the following:

Go on with me, and commence business with the first settling; and you shall be entitled to half a league of land, in addition to the quantity I propose in my circular, as soon as I get the first fifty settled, and the fee simple secured. If you employ 3 or 10 laborers, (each of whom are settlers,) the land to which you will be thus entitled will amount to about 2461 English acres:— and even if you do not employ any laborers, the quantity you will thus receive will amount to about 2337 acres.— Then, if you continue in the colony, thus encouraging migrations to it, by your example, you shall be entitled further to half a league of land, for each fifty settlers that locate themselves, as I shall obtain the fee simple for each tract, until my contract with the government shall be completed. When the whole shall be thus settled, you will have secured about 11,133 acres, for your own use, even if you should not engage extensively in business. Your lands will, of course, be located in different places, as the settlements (by fifties) shall progress: but you will be among the first to have the choice, next to what the emigrants shall reserve for themselves.

I think you will admit that this proposition is liberal. I must add, that it is as far as I can go. Had I not a partner, already, to share my land with me, I might view the matter in a different

light, perhaps. Nothing but what I consider
the importance of your example and influence,
especially in the commencement of the ~~enterprise~~
settlement, could have induced me to make
this offer; and I shall not think of giving
such terms to any others. Though I am very
desirous to have the aid of such as may possess
influence, in promoting our cause, I am
not apprehensive that there will be any
difficulty in proceeding with the enterprise;
and after sacrificing everything for more
than twenty years, for the promotion of that
cause, and being constantly tossed from
pillar to post, without ^{having} where to lay my
head, or rest the sole of my foot, (on a
spot that I could call my own) I must
now try to realize something from my
exertions, that shall give me, at least,
the semblance of a home. If I know my
own heart, I possess the desire to uphold the
principles of justice; but my spirit is too
independent (proud, if you please) to succumb
to the ~~arrogance~~ of asking favors, or submit
to the ^{precarious} allowance of comfort, which a depen-
dence on a stipendiary course of life would
ensure me. In case I succeed, therefore,
in making a good beginning with my
colonial project, I shall use every hon-
orable effort to promote the interests
of the settlement, and the welfare of those
who join me in it. In this case, the more
each one does for himself, upon fair business
principles, the more he will promote the
glorious cause to which we have resolved to
devote ourselves. It is my determination, if

possible, to devote the remainder of my days to the great work of Emancipation; but in doing so, I must be independent in mind, and body.

I am fully aware of the diabolical spirit that is at work in the South, and the importance of commencing my colonial operations speedily. The present Indian struggle may be considered the pioneering of an awful retribution! - yet justice must yield to power, I fear, longer.

As to the number of colonists, who go out, at first, it makes little difference whether the number ^{it} is small, or tolerably large, provided all go with means to support themselves - which they must, unquestionably, do. It will require but a few days, to fix upon the spot where I shall locate the colony. It is pretty near determined on already, if I shall, on a little further investigation, find matters as they have been represented to me. And as soon as I determine fully, all may go to work, immediately, to plant something, without reference to surveys, to raise a first crop. They can probably take possession of their lands, by the time the next planting season arrives. The little fencing required, at first, will be scarcely an object of a moment's reflection. It is probable that most of those who go out in the early periods of the settlement, will be persons calculated to farm upon a small scale, and upon their own account. When the beginning shall have been fairly made, capitalists will soon find their way to commence operations on a larger scale.

I have found a shipper, here, in whom I have every confidence, willing to fit out a vessel for Matamoras. James Mott and myself have both talked with him upon the subject. (James, then will observe, is my appointed agent in Philadelphia.) He will have the vessel in readiness, as soon as he can, in next month. He has been long engaged in the Haytian trade, and is very friendly to our cause. Friend Mott is well acquainted with him, and thinks he will be the most suitable person we shall probably find to make arrangements for us. He proposes the price for passage, at first, to be \$40. per cabin, and half that sum for the steerage. I think the terms and arrangements that we can ^{have} here, will be more agreeable, and better for us, than we can probably obtain at New York.

When I commenced this letter I expected to send it by mail; but learning that a friend was going on to New-York, I thought best to forward it by him. I beg then to answer it, as quick as possible, in order that I may know what the concludes on. I do not anticipate any difficulty in the speedy transmission ^{and reception} of thy answer, by mail, now that I am here to receive it. Thy other letters, which were delayed, had lain some time in the office, or ^{the} hands of individuals, in my absence.

Most Respectfully,
Thy Sincere Friend

J. L. Child Esq.

J. Lundy

(Over—

Estimated Ground:—

I am truly glad to learn that Joseph H. Beale and his wife think of going with us to Mexico. I am a little acquainted with him, and shall be much pleased, if he concludes to join us with his family. He shall want a merchant there, immediately, — and Joseph will be the very man. It can make no possible difference, to any but themselves, whether they go with the first expedition, or not. — But I do not expect there will be any opportunity to go out in an English vessel, to Matamoros. I believe that no large vessels sail from our ports to that. They do to Vera Cruz — but that would be much too far south, for us — 500 miles at least. There is a fear of snakes! — Why, they must have forgotten the history of Anthony Benet — a good "abolitionist", they know. When he was expostulated with for keeping some domesticated snakes! he replied: "They won't hurt you, if you feed them"!! —

At present, I have no apprehensions that the Texas "negroes" will get the opportunity to disturb us in Tamaulipas. I think they will have their hands full at home, until they contract more peaceable habits.

I admire thy notions, respecting what the world calls gentility. Give me, too, a life of "industry and peace," and the pomp of the city may mingle with the clouds of its own snakes, in welcome.

The editor of the "Struggler" shall be reminded of the omission. Thy speaks of.
Most Respectfully, thy friend

L. M. Child.

B. Lundy